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NATURAL RESOURCES

OF THE

STATE OF ARKANSAS.

Published by Authority of the State.

COPIES WILL BE FURNISHED ON APPLICATION TO

JAMES M. LEWIS,

Commissioner of Immigration and State Lands,

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

LITTLE ROCK:
PRESS OF THE STATE PRINTER.
1891.

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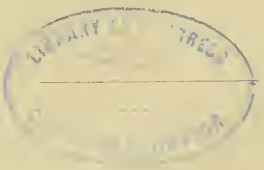

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ARKANSAS:

ITS ADVANTAGES AND RESOURCES.

Arkansas is a part of the purchase made by the United States from the French in 1803. It was erected into a separate Territory in 1819, taking its name from the large river which flows across it from west to east, and was admitted into the Union in June, 1836. It lies between latitude 33 deg. and 36 deg. and 30 min. north. In its width, from east to west, it varies from 170 to 250 miles, and extends 242 miles from north to south, possessing an area of 52,158 square miles, or 33,382,120 acres, of which 15,000,000 acres remain open to purchase or entry from the State and United States governments. Of these lands, a large portion may be entered under the homestead acts of Congress by parties desirous of becoming actual settlers thereon.

Arkansas is bounded on the north by the State of Missouri; on the east, by the Mississippi and St. Francis rivers; on the south, by the States of Louisiana and Texas, and, on the west, by the State of Texas and the Indian Territory. Geographically its position is second to none and superior to most of the States in the Union. On its eastern side the Father of Waters, burthened with the wealth of the many States above us, hastens with its freight to the highway of the world; and it, as has been demonstrated within the last two years, Wisconsin and Minnesota, one thousand miles north of us, can deliver their produce at European ports, by the way of New Orleans,

at less cost of carriage than by any other route, it surely needs no argument to show that we can deliver the products of our labor at the same market at far less cost to the tiller of the soil.

On the west lies the Indian Territory, with a soil as good as any, the products of which will be carried through the center of this State by railroad or river paying tribute, as it passes in its transit, to the sea.

A railroad from Memphis, Tennessee, running west in almost a direct line through Little Rock, will strike the projected 35th Parallel Pacific Railroad at Fort Smith, on the border of the Indian Territory, and the projected South Pacific Railroad will run through Little Rock, via El Paso, in Texas, to the Gulf of California and San Francisco, making two grand highways of the nation through Arkansas—an indispensable necessity to at least three-fourths of the States in the Union—giving us equal facilities of communication with those old and wealthy States bordering the Atlantic, and the vast country west of us to the Pacific shore.

There are to be found within the limits of this State every variety of soil and scenery, from the flat bottom lands bordering rivers lakes and bayous, to the cloud-capped summit of the Boston mountains. The southern and eastern portions of the State are level or undulating, while the northern and western portions are more broken and hilly, becoming, in some localities, mountainous.

The surface of the country is usually covered with a heavy growth of timber on the bottoms, consisting of several varieties of oak, hickory, gum, pecan, elm, black walnut, maple and ash, with an undergrowth of spice, paw-paw and large grape vines; and the hilly and mountainous regions are covered with a growth of oak, hickory, maple, and pine remarkably straight, often fifty feet without a limb. Arkansas has untold wealth on her surface, in live growth of forest trees, sufficient to make her lumber interest of the first importance to the State.

Occasionally, throughout the State, small prairies are at in-

tervals interspersed, covered with rich and nutritious native grasses. Cultivated grasses do well in all parts of the State—clover, white and red, timothy and blue grass.

The lamented David Dale Owen, late State Geologist of Arkansas, says of the soil of the bottoms: "These lands are not excelled for fertility by any in the world." Speaking of the black sand soil in the northeast part of the State, between Crowley's Ridge and the Mississippi river, he says: "The black sand soil is remarkably deep and rich, and will yield, on new land, eighty to one hundred bushels of corn to the acre; it is a quick, warm soil, and stands both dry and wet seasons well."

The soil of the valleys between the hills, called "hammock" or "second bottom," is good, but not as good as the first bottom. It, however, grows all kind of crops well. The ridges, hills and slopes, for fruit growing and grazing, cannot be surpassed. No locality excels the northern and western portions of the State in the growth of timothy, blue grass and clover. Springs are abundant and the water is pure. Stock raisers, dairymen and fruit growers can find no better location.

NAVIGABLE STREAMS.

While in other States, until supplied by art with means of transit, farmers were obliged to haul their produce, in many instances, one hundred and fifty miles to a market, in this State an all-wise Providence has so distributed the water courses that, intersecting every portion of the State, they give free access and egress by steamers to every part of this commonwealth.

The St. Francis River, rising in southeastern Missouri, runs through or borders parts of the counties of Green, Craighead, Poinsett, Mississippi, Cross, Crittenden, St. Francis and Phillips, and is navigable in this State to the Missouri line.

The White River has its rise in Washington county, runs into the State of Missouri, from thence southward through the following counties in Arkansas: Carroll, Marion, Izard, Inde-

pendence, Jackson, White, Woodruff, Monroe, Arkansas and Desha. This stream is navigable for 360 miles at all times, and 100 miles further during high water.

Black River rises in southeastern Missouri and runs through the following counties in Arkansas: Green, Randolph, Lawrence, Independence and Jackson. This stream is navigable for small boats to the Missouri line.

Arkansas River comes through the Indian Territory from the Rocky Mountains, and enters this State, on the western border, at Fort Smith. It flows across the State through the counties of Crawford, Sebastian, Franklin, Johnson, Yell, Pope, Perry, Conway, Pulaski, Jefferson, Arkansas and Desha. It is navigable entirely across the State, and, in high water, far up into the Indian Territory.

Ouachita River rises in Polk, and runs through the counties of Montgomery, Hot Spring, Clark, Dallas, Ouachita, Calhoun, Union and Ashley, passing into the State of Louisiana. It is navigable in this State for one hundred and fifty, and, in high water, at least two hundred and fifty miles.

Saline River rises in Saline and runs through Hot Spring, Dallas, Jefferson, Bradley, Drew, Ashley and Calhoun counties, and is navigable for one hundred miles.

Bayou Bartholomew is navigable in the counties of Desha, Drew, Chicot and Ashley. It empties into the Ouachita, and is navigable in this State about one hundred and fifty miles.

Red River running through the south-western portion of the State, is navigable in the counties through which it passes, viz: Little River, Hempstead, and Lafayette—a distance of about one hundred miles.

The *Mississippi River* forms the eastern boundary of the State, and borders the counties of Mississippi, Crittenden, Phillips, Desha, and Chicot, a distance of about 400 miles.

Thus it will be seen that of the sixty-one counties in this State forty-three are watered by streams, each navigable in their course, through different counties, from seventy-five to four hundred miles, making, with their branches a navigable highway within this State of over 3000 miles. And let it be

borne in mind that the ice in Arkansas never obstructs navigation.

These streams have their rise in the mountainous and hilly regions in the north-western part of the State, in springs of clear, sparkling water that leaps from the craggy mountain side as if Moses had smitten the rugged cairn with his divining rod, or, welling up from their base, become rivers where they burst from the Titanic grasp of the Genie of the hills.

One of these springs is so remarkable that I copy a description of it from Prof. D. D. Owen's Geological Reconnoisance of Arkansas:

"The country is well watered, and possesses many fine water powers—even at the very fountain-head of some of its numerous limpid calcareous streams, which frequently burst forth from among the ledges of rock. One of the most remarkable of these, forms the fountain-head of the main fork of Spring river, known as the "Mammoth Spring," welling up on the south side of a low, rocky ridge, from a submerged abyss beneath of sixty-four feet, and constituting, at its very source, a respectable lake of about one-sixteenth of a mile from north to south, and one-fifth to one-sixth of that distance from east to west.

"It is said by those who have sounded the bottom that there are large cavities and crevices in the rock, and that the main body of the water issues from a large cavernous opening of some forty yards in circumference. It has been estimated that it boils up at the rate of about eight thousand barrels per minute; the correctness of this estimate we had no means of verifying, but it may be safely estimated that the average constant flow would be at least sufficient to propel from twelve to fifteen run of stones.

"The uniform temperature and composition of the water is peculiarly congenial to the growth of a variety of cryptogamic, aquatic plants, possessing highly nutrative qualities, both for herbiverous animals and birds.

"In the early settlement of the country, herds of herbiverous wild animals traveled from great distances to this fountain

for both food and water, as well as flocks of wild fowl. Now, the cattle of the neighboring farms may be seen wading in its waters up to their middle, and browsing on the herbage, which appears peculiarly congenial to their tastes; it is, also, a general resort of geese, ducks, and other aquatic birds.

"This mammoth spring is located just south of the east and west line between Missouri and Arkansas, on section 5, township 21 north, range 7 west, of the 5th (fifth) principal meridian, and forms the most interesting feature of this section of the country, since it affords a water power which, if properly improved, might supply valuable mill-sites and water privileges for manufacturing purposes in general.

"The water of this remarkable fountain remains at a nearly uniform temperature, never freezing in winter. On the 17th of December, 1857, the temperature of the air being 17 deg. Fahrenheit, the spring showed only 57 deg. Farenheit. But the average temperature, when the thermometer is sunk deep in the spring, will probably be found to be 60 deg.

"The extent of the range of extreme low and high water is but three to four inches, so that the variation in the supply of water is very slight.

"A large proportion of the water now runs to waste, the present mill only requiring a limited supply; but if it were all saved, which it could easily be, there would be enough for many grist-mills, as well as woolen factories, which would be well adapted to the resources of the country, since both the climate and herbage seem to be well suited to raising sheep. At least, the small flocks of sheep seen in the range appear both healthy and vigorous.

"The water is generally clear and limpid. It only becomes slightly muddy after long continued rains. From ten to eleven feet of fall can be obtained between the fountain-head and the present site of the dam.

"Many years can not elapse until, in such a country, locations of this description will become very valuable. Already the little mill at this point attracts custom from thirty miles distance."

RAILROADS.

At the commencement of the rebellion several railroads were in process of being built.

The *Memphis and Little Rock road* was graded nearly the whole distance, and running seventy miles of its length. During the latter part of the war only fifty miles at the Little Rock end of the road was in operation—this being the section between the Arkansas and White rivers. There is now in operation an additional 50 miles from Memphis to L'Anguille river. It is one of the most important roads in the State—running through a magnificent country and connecting Memphis, a large city, with Little Rock, a city which is the capital of the State and destined always to be its commercial center. This road, which is now under contract, will be completed and running through trains six months from this date. It has aid from the State to the amount of $10,000 per mile for ninety miles of its length.

The *Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad*, which will, with the Memphis and Little Rock Railroad, form a continuous line from the eastern to the western boundary of Arkansas, has a valuable grant of land and some stock subscription. It is now under contract and will be completed at an early day, connecting Little Rock with the Indian territory at Fort Smith—an important commercial town in this State,—and being an important link in the 35th parallel Pacific route, it must prove a good investment and a paying road. This road has also State aid to the amount of 10,000 per mile for 150 miles. Of this road, the president, Jesse Turner, in his report to the Governor of Arkansas, says:

"Aside from its great importance, considered merely as an Arkansas road, it will, in all probability, become the main trunk of a great national highway, commencing at a point on the Mississippi river, opposite the city of Memphis, and running thence near the thirty-fifth parallel of north latitude to the Pacific ocean. If this should be its destiny, and I confidently believe it will, it will, in my estimation, give it a prospective importance second to no railroad on the continent."

There was, also, before the war, a railroad projected from Pine Bluff, in Jefferson county, to Napoleon, at the mouth of the Arkansas river. This road is graded nearly its entire length, and will probably be completed at an early day. It passes through the valley of the Arkansas—as rich a cotton growing district as the sun shines upon.

A road was also projected from Eunice, on the Mississippi river, across the Ouachita, via Camden, to Red river into Texas. This road is partly graded, and, prior to the war, had cars running for a few miles on the eastern end of its line. It is now under contract, and will be speedily pushed to completion. It gives an outlet to one of the richest planting sections of the State, runs through extensive coal fields, and has upon its line some of the finest pine and oak timber in the world. This road will probably be constructed from the Mississippi river to Camden, a distance of about 100 miles, within the next twelve months, and will be pushed rapidly to completion. It has a large amount of land, and State aid to the amount of $15,000 per mile for 100 miles of its line.

The *Cairo and Fulton* is another important projected railroad. This road will run through a fertile country, has a large land grant from the general government, and is one of the most important roads. It runs diagonally across the State from the north-east to the south-west corner, and is about 300 miles long. It is the first link in the south-western Pacific Railroad. This road has aid from the State to the amount of $10,000 per mile for its entire length.

Another of the most important projected roads in the State is the *Little Rock, Pine Bluff and New Orleans Railroad.* It will extend from Little Rock south, via Pine Bluff, to the State line; thence to connect with a road via Vicksburg to New Orleans. People residing along the line of this road, estimate the amount of lands that will be contributed to it by parties on the line at 500,000 acres. It has State aid for 112 miles of its length, at $15,000 per mile. This road will connect with the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad at Little Rock, forming a continuous line of rail from New Orleans to Fort Smith, connecting at

that point with the 35th Parallel Pacific Railroad, or a branch from the Central Pacific Road, in Kansas, to that place. Surveys are now being made, and it is estimated that this route will be completed by the 1st of January, 1871.

A railroad is also contemplated from Helena, on the Mississippi river, to Little Rock. This road will pass through a beautiful country. It has State aid to the amount of $15,000 per mile, and is expected to be completed at an early day.

There is also a railroad projected from Springfield, Missouri, to Fort Smith, which will run through the western and northwestern part of this State. With that finished, Arkansas will furnish the early fruit for St. Louis, Chicago, and other cities farther north.

Gentlemen conducting these enterprises confidently assert that these railroads will give employment to from 3000 to 5000 laborers for the next three years.

FARM PRODUCTS.

Cotton.—The great staple of export for Arkansas has always been cotton. By growing this fiber, many became immensely rich and all made money. It is now, on land particularly adapted to it, the most profitable crop raised in this State, and the bottom lands of Arkansas are second to none in the southwest. There is no country in the world, except, perhaps, a narrow strip upon the coast of Georgia, that can produce as much cotton, of as good quality, on a given area, as can be produced upon the bottom lands of this State. A fair crop, on these bottoms, is 450 pounds of lint cotton per acre, which, at the present price, (Sept. 1st. 1869), 30c. per pound, will make the product of one acre $135. One man, in an ordinary season, can easily tend ten acres, making the result of his labor for one year $1,350, which is nearly double the product of one man's labor in raising corn or wheat in the more northern States.

Corn.—These bottoms are also particularly adapted to the growth of corn. From sixty to eighty bushels per acre is not

an unusual crop; and it is the opinion of good farmers that, let the same system of culture prevail here that has been adopted in Iowa and Wisconsin, and the crop of maize can be safely calculated to average sixty bushels per acre. The corn is not as flinty here as in the more northern States, and is considered better for feeding purposes.

Cotton and corn may safely be set down as the great staples of the bottoms. In addition to these, however, all the crops grown in the hills can be grown in the bottoms, viz: wheat, oats, rye, peas, beans, Irish and sweet potatoes, ground nuts, turnips, tobacco, hops, etc., also all kinds of roots and vegetables.

Wheat does well in the bottoms, in seasons favorable to it, producing immensely—sometimes as high as sixty bushels per acre; but it is not considered as sure a crop there as in the hills in the northern and western part of the State, where the usual yield is from twenty to twenty-two bushels per acre. It is said to produce finely, also, in the Red river country, in the southwestern part of the State. Winter wheat is usually grown here and is of a very superior quality.

Oats, *Barley* and *Rye* do well in all parts of the State, especially in the northern portion.

Peas produce immensely every where, and are a sure crop. No Northern State can compete with Arkansas in the growth of the field-pea.

Beans grow and produce well. The delicious Lima, or butter-bean, is grown as easily here as the common white bean in the Northern States, and is one of our most common vegetables.

Irish Potatoes do well, and, with care, keep as well as in the Northern States.

Sweet Potatoes yield from three to five hundred bushels per acre, and are not surpassed in quality by any grown on any part of this continent. They sell readily at seventy-five cents per bushel, and must at an early day form no inconsiderable part of the exports of this State.

The uplands of Arkansas are peculiarly adapted to the growth

of the ground-nut, or *goober pea*, the poorest soil growing them in great abundance; they yield largely. There is a great and increasing demand for them, not only as an article of food, but on account of the oil compressed from them, an article of great commercial value.

Turnips have here a most prolific growth. They are to be seen in the fields as late as January, growing with an exuberance unsurpassed, a single one often weighing nine or ten pounds. In connection with sheep raising in the hilly portions of the State, peas and turnips must prove very valuable crops.

All the varieties of garden vegetables, raised in any country, grow well here—squashes, peas, beans, okra, egg-plant, beets, turnips, radishes, onions, cabbage, celery, oyster-plant, lettuce and tomatoes. Vegetables are plenty in market in April, and last until Christmas.

Blue Grass, in the timber on the bottoms, grows finely, and in the western and northwestern districts seems indigenous to the soil. In the report of Washburne and Denckla, to the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad Company, these gentlemen assert that "corn, cotton, cereals, grasses, (especially blue grass which takes hold of the soil and spreads rapidly and close), clover and fruits, are all grown here in great perfection." These gentlemen also assert that "tobacco grows far better than in Maryland, while hemp does as well as in Kentucky or Missouri."

Tobacco has long been grown here, and is of a very superior quality.

Hops grow wild, and when cultivated yield bountifully.

Honey is very plenty throughout the State. It is found wild in the hollow trees of every forest, and is accumulated by every one who desires it without any trouble. The numerous flowers afford to the bees plenty of food in summer, while the short, mild winters create a very light demand upon the stock. With hives arranged with caps, the farmer or bee-fancier can always supply himself through the year with honey without disturbing the swarm.

STOCK RAISING.

No portion of the United States is better adapted to stock growing than this. Cattle, horses and mules thrive and keep fat the year through, without care or feeding, in the central and southern portions of the State, where, in addition to the grasses, they feed and do remarkably well on small cane, which, in many localities, grows luxuriantly the entire year, affording a nutritious range during the winter. Fat cattle from this State find a ready market at St. Louis or Memphis. Hogs are raised here without cost, and fatten readily in the fall from the abundance of mast in the woods, acorns being plenty everywhere—that from the over-cup oak is nearly two inches in length, very nutritious, palatable, and is devoured by the hogs greedily.

There is no better corn country than this. With its natural advantages and facilities for a market, it must speedily become one of the first stock growing States in the Union.

FISH AND GAME.

The rivers, lakes and bayous are well-stocked with good fish. Among the varieties are pickerell, black bass, buffalo, and catfish—the last are sometimes taken weighing 150 pounds.

Game is very plenty, and of almost every kind, consisting of bear, deer, turkey, duck, prairie chicken, and quail.

FRUITS.

No locality in the world can grow a greater variety of fruit, and to greater perfection, than can be grown within the limits of this State. Apples, pears, peaches, apricots, figs, plums, and grapes, all do well. This is a natural peach country. They grow large, are well flavored, and need no care.

SHRUBS AND FLOWERS

Grow luxuriantly. The magnolia, the pride of the South, is in almost every inclosure; the glossy, green holly is by every road side, while roses of infinite variety blush and glow in this soft, genial climate from early March till late December. All kinds of flowering shrubs do well, many hot house plants growing here in the open air eight months of the year.

GRAPE CULTURE AND THE CLIMATE OF ARKANSAS.

The genial climate of this State, neither too cold in winter nor too hot in summer, is peculiarly adapted to the growth of the vine. Dr. Richard Thornton, with many years experience, asserts that there is no portion of the American continent where the grape can be grown so successfully as in western Arkansas. Leonard Withoff, Esq., of Van Buren, himself a native of a vine growing region, near Wurtenberg, and for 25 years a resident of Arkansas, having been engaged in grape growing for twelve years, says the Catawba and White Hamburg have neither of them ever failed, and that in 1864 his Catawba yielded him one and one-half gallons to the vine. Dr. Dibbrell, a well-known resident of this State, asserts that he has raised the Catawba, Diana, and Delaware, and has never known either of them to fail or be troubled with mildew.

There is said to grow wild, south of Fort Smith, a large, white, native grape, of very delicious flavor. Indeed, in every portion of the State, wild grapes of different varieties are abundant.

Says Mr. John R. Eakin, author of a work on grape culture: "This is the best region of wild grapes in America. What we mean to assert is, that the region between the Mississippi and the staked plains, and between the Missouri river and the swamp lands of the Gulf, produce more and larger and better wild grapes than any other portion of the known world. This is deliberately said, after much reading, inquiry, travel, and extensive observation."

Speaking of Arkansas, he further says:

"In the Eastern and North-western States, they all try to avoid a northern exposure. Our country is somewhat differently situated, especially that portion lying west of the Ouachita and between the mountain ranges south of the Arkansas. It may be well to dwell on this a little. This section of country, and also that north of the Arkansas river for a considerable distance, *is the only part of the United States protected against violent winds.* The mountains which shield it range East and West. The Blue Ridge, Alleghany, and Cumberland mountains run in a North and South direction, and, except in sheltered nooks, protected by spurs, the winds rush down on each side of them from Labrador and Hudson's Bay. The same is the case with the northern portion of Missouri, with Ohio, Illinois and Indiana, and on down the Mississippi and the Southern States east of the river. These North winds are very sudden and destructive, bringing in twenty-four hours the climate of the frigid zone—throwing against vegetation the identical air that was but yesterday on an iceberg. This influence is greatly modified with us. These hills, to our north, perform the same office which the Alps do to Italy. *This is indeed, as to climate, the Italy of the United States.*"

Sudden changes are less frequent than in the Eastern States in the same latitude—and not to be compared to the country further West, where sudden northers sweep down to the Gulf, often causing the cattle to perish on the plains of Texas as far South as San Antonio. All evidence demonstrates that there is not, on this continent, any locality superior to this for the profitable growth of the grape; and, for the reason adduced above, it is believed that the climate of Arkansas possesses the most equable temperature of any State in the Union. The thermometer does not show here as high a temperature during the summer months as in the more Northern States, and in our short winter—which hardly deserves the name—it rarely drops down to zero. The time cannot be far distant when our valleys, hill-slopes and mountains sides will rival sunny France in the products of the vine.

TIMBER.

The lumber interest of this State is naturally suggested to the mind by the immense forest growth with which it is covered. The pines grow mostly on the hill lands, although they are occasionally found in the bottoms. It is not unusual for a single tree to make two thousand feet of good merchantable boards. No lumber makes better flooring. It is shipped to St. Louis, Memphis, New Orleans, and is used here in the manufacture of sash, blinds and doors; for inside finish, and, indeed, for all building purposes, suitably dressed and oiled, it is very beautiful.

Some portions of the State are very heavily timbered with black walnut. It is of great value and only awaits capital and labor to be added to the commercial wealth of the State.

Cypress grows on the bottom lands skirting the rivers, lakes and bayous. Some of these trees grow to an enormous size, making, in some instances, 6000 feet of lumber to a single tree. It is an excellent timber for the manufacture of doors, etc., makes good shingles, and is used principally for that purpose in this locality.

Most of the varieties of oak grow luxuriantly. The white oak and a species of oak called here the "overcup," resembling the white oak, grow large, often four or five feet in diameter. It is applicable to all the uses to which oak is ever put, but, on account of its large size, more particularly to the manufacture of the pipe stave. This stave is worth in New Orleans $150 per thousand. They are rived sixty inches long, six inches wide, and two and a half inches thick.

With proper management it seems as if enormous wealth should be accumulated in this business; the profit ought to be at least 100 per cent. This timber can be obtained convenient to navigable streams and in large quanties.

Many other kinds of timber are found here—pecan, persimmon, which grow large enough for saw-logs, elm, hickory and cherry, all of which, as the country is developed, will seek their legitimate uses. Lumber is now worth $20 per M., and shingles $4.

Red cedar grows in extensive brakes in the northern and western parts of the State. It is to be found in large quantities near the White river and Petite Jean. Of the commercial value of this wood it is unnecessary to speak. Red cedar posts sell in Little Rock market readily at $40 per hundred.

MINERALS.

The rich bottom lands of this State have always afforded ample employment for all of the capital in the State, and it has proved so largely remunerative that but little attention has been given to the development of the mineral resources of Arkansas. It is, however, assured by geological surveys and other sources of information, that minerals, marble and mineral earths, exist in this State in sufficient variety and quantity to render Arkansas, in that respect, independent of the world. David Dale Owen, in his Geological Reconnoissance of Arkansas, says:

"There are resources of this State in ores of zinc, manganese, iron, lead, copper, marble, whet and hone-stone, rock crystal, paints, nitre earth, kaolin, granite, freestone, limestone, marls, green sand, marly limestone, grindstone, and slate, which may well justify the assertion that Arkansas is destined to rank as one of the richest mineral States of the Union. Her zinc ores compare favorably with those of Silesia, and her argentiferous galena far exceeds in per centage of silver the average of such ores of other countries. Her novaculite rocks cannot be excelled in firmness of texture, beauty of color, and sharpness of grit. Her crystal mountains stand unrivaled for extent, and their products are equal in brilliancy and transparency to any in the world. * * Arkansas is destined, I believe, to take the lead of all the Western States in her resources in ores of zinc and manganese."

Speaking of the coal on Spadra creek, he says: "It is semi-anthracite ore, richer in fixed carbon than the celebrated Zebra run coal of the Shamokin coal fields of Pennsylvania, and is

superior for manufacturing purposes to any western coal at present known, where durability, intense heat and reduction are required."

This coal is plenty, covers a large area, and can be mined with but little expense. It lies in Johnson county, bordering the Arkansas river, and opens a large field for enterprise and capital.

At the commencement of the rebellion, attention was first being directed to mining in this State, since which time, owing to the unsettled condition of the country, but little advance has been made in developing her mineral resources. Coal is, however, obtained for local purposes, in many parts of the State, by digging into the side of some hill or by stripping the surface earth.

COAL.

The report of the General Land office for 1867 estimates the coal fields of Arkansas to comprise, in area, 12,000 acres. Coal is known to exist in twelve counties, and is mined extensively for local purposes.

Work has been commenced at the Kellogg Lead Mines, twelve miles north of Little Rock, where, I am informed by Mr. Chamberlain, the Superintendent, that the galena is rich enough in gold and silver to defray the expense of mining and smelting, so that the lead is a clear profit.

HOT SPRINGS.

Among the most remarkable of the natural wonders of Arkansas, are the Hot Springs. The cures produced by them are wonderful. Cases of old chronic disease, that have stubbornly resisted all attempts at cure by the profession, yield as if by magic to this great natural medicator. The Hon. James Hinds, in his speech in the House of Representatives, July 25, 1868, said:

"These springs are 54 in number, having a temperature varying from 93 to 150 deg. Fahrenheit, and discharge 317 gallons per minute. The amount discharged from each varies, but they are all qualitively allied. It is estimated by eminent medical gentlemen that there are over one hundred thousand afflicted persons in the United States who cannot be permanently cured except by a use of these waters; and the day is not far distant when a great city will rise on this mountain slope which will be the Baden-Baden of America. Here, where the salubrity of the climate is unsurpassed, especially in the summer season, and where the long genial twilights are inspiringly refreshing, will come the pleasure seekers from all parts of the world; and here will resort from year to year the millions of afflicted from all lands, to be healed of their many infirmities."

Dr. Lawrence, a resident physician for ten years, says:

"The properties of the waters depend not alone on their caloric qualities, but the springs all contain carbonates of the alkalies, and alkaline earth agents well known to therapeutists to possess active eliminative agency, consequently they produce valuable alterative effects in chronic diseases. Rheumatism, gout, stiff joints, contraction of the muscles and skin, old wounds and painful cicatrices are relieved; skin diseases, scrofulous ulcerations, and enlargement of the glands; prostrations from long-standing sickness or debility, following severe courses of powerful medicines, show a remarkable improvement; spinal diseases, neuralgia, nervous affections, partial paralysis, lead palsy, St. Vitus' dance (chorea), muscular and general debility, respond to treatment. Uterine diseases, as a class, are greatly benefitted; and the baths are particularly regarded for the grand climacteric change of life; when sterility is a consequent of functional disorder, the baths are of great importance. For mercurial diseases, mercurio-syphilitic, and all syphilitic affections, volumes of testimonials could be adduced in relation to the effects of these remarkable and unexcelled waters in the treatment of these obstinate and loathsome affections."

The large quantity of free carbonic acid which these springs contain, and which rises in volumes through the waters, produces, undoubtedly, an exhilerating effect on the system, enabling invalids to drink it freely when otherwise the stomach would promptly reject it.

At an early day, not only will these wonderful springs be sought for by invalids, on account of their curative properties, but the lovers of nature, and the traveler who seeks for the wonderful and the beautiful, will here find irresistible attractions.

Says Owen, in his Geological Reconnoisance of Arkansas, when speaking of the vicinity of the Hot Springs:

"This ridge or mountain is made up of the most beautiful variety of novaculite, equal in whiteness, clearness of texture, and subdued, waxy lustre, to the most compact forms and white varieties of Carrara marble. Except in being less translucent, it approaches, in lustre and fineness of structure, to chalcedony."

The famous crystal mountains, in Montgomery county, are twenty miles from Hot Springs, of which he says:

"There is at present no region known on this continent which presents such extensive mines of rock crystal as the gorges of the mountainous ridges of Montgomery county. Almost every fissure of this vast sandstone formation, for a distance of one or two miles in length, and from three-quarters to a mile in breadth, is lined with these brilliants, which, exposed in bursting open the rock, glitter and flash in the sun's rays like a diadem."

Here, as in the Alps, we have the "Crystal Hunter," exploring the recesses of this great crystal mountain, and carrying his glittering "points" to Hot Springs and elsewhere, exposing them for sale in the door-steps of the hotel and in the shop windows, as attractions for strangers, to serve by their purchase as remembrances of the buyer's visit to the crystal regions of Arkansas; and truly by a judicious selection the lover of the mineral kingdom may here possess himself of gems of superior value that may vie in beauty and brilliancy with those

of the Alps—Dauphine, Peidmont, and Carrara. With proper tools, slabs might be rent off from the face of the sandstone rock, far more than a man could lift; in fact, even a cart load, studded over with limpid crystals of all sizes, from the fraction of an inch to five and six inches in length.

There are many other springs in this State possessing curative properties, but it is believed that, in the cure of disease, there are no springs in the world that can compare with the Hot Springs of Arkansas.

LITTLE ROCK.

This city, located near the centre of the State, is built upon a high, rolling plain, overlooking the Arkansas river and surrounding country for miles, and is as healthy as any other city in the United States. Back of it, lie wooded rocky hills, covered with a heavy growth of timber, while east and south stretch out the bottom lands of the Arkansas. Its drainage is excellent. The banks washed by the river are mostly solid rock, which rise from thirty to sixty feet above its level. Its population is about 10,000. It has two steam saw mills, two steam sash, blind, and door factories, eight churches, eight school houses, one college, and one seminary, three daily papers, and five hotels.

The public buildings are good, and it has many fine residences, with grounds tastefully ornamented, and a profusion of shrubs and flowers, making it in fact as well as name the "Flower City," or "City of Roses."

Business is good, and it presents all the aspects of a thriving city. In addition to the retail trade, quite a large wholesale business is done from this point. During the past year about 8000 bales of cotton have been shipped from this place.

The railroad system of this State finds its common center at the Capital, making it the commercial as well as political center of the State, and it is confidently predicted that five years hence will find it a city of 25,000 inhabitants.

Mechanics' wages here are from three to five dollars per day. Farm laborers can be obtained at from twelve to twenty dollars per month; good house servants from six to ten dollars per month.

Emigrants coming to Little Rock will be near the center of the State, and will from here find all points easily accessible. The State land office is located here. Those in charge of it will always be glad to give any information or assistance in their power to immigrants. The different United States land offices are located at Little Rock, Washington (Hempstead county), and Clarksville in Johnson county.

STATE LANDS.

The lands belonging to the State are the swamp and overflowed lands granted to the State by Congress in 1850. Of these, there remain unsold about 2,000,000 acres, divided into first and second class. The first class comprises those lying within six miles of a navigable stream, and are sold at seventy-five cents per acre. The second class are those lying more than that distance from navigable streams, and are sold at fifty cents per acre. This grant comprises some of the finest land in the State.

DONATION LANDS.

In 1840 the Legislature enacted what is termed the "donation law," by which the lands not sold by the Auditor at the annual sale of lands for non-payment of taxes, are donated to any person in tracts of 160 acres or less, who shall reside on the land and cultivate five acres, or who, in lieu thereof, shall fence and cultivate five acres within eighteen months after the date of donation. In 1850 the provisions of the law were so extended that a person might take up a quarter section for his

wife and each of his minor children; the wife and children were not required to make any improvements, the applicant being required to swear that the land so obtained was for his or her own use, or for the benefit of his child, and not for speculation.

SCHOOL LANDS.

The sixteenth section in each township is set apart for common school purposes. A portion of these lands have been disposed of, but many fine tracts are still in the market. They are sold principally on time and afford good opportunities for the landless to secure comfortable homes. Further information regarding these can be had upon application to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, at Little Rock.

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT LANDS.

Five hundred thousand acres were donated to the State by the general government, in 1841, for the use of internal improvements in the State. They were selected with great care, and comprise the best lands then unsold. A portion of these lands are yet subject to entry. They are scattered over the entire State, and are sold by the State at $1 25 per acre, on a credit of one, two, three, four and five years, with interest payable annually at six per cent.

SEMINARY LANDS.

There was also donated by Congress to this State, for the purpose of establishing a seminary of learning in this State, seventy-two sections of land, which were carefully selected from the most valuable tracts. These lands are sold by the

State at $2 per acre, upon the same terms as the internal improvement lands, except that the interest is ten per cent. per annum.

SALINE LANDS.

Congress donated to this State a certain amount of land contiguous to the various salt springs. A part has been sold and the remainder is subject to entry at $1 25 per acre, one-fifth cash and the balance on time.

The Commissioner of Immigration and State Lands has by law entire control of all the lands owned by the State, except the school or "sixteenth section" lands, and all applications to purchase must be made to his office, at Little Rock.

GOVERNMENT LANDS.

There are of government lands in this State about twelve millions of acres unsold. These lands are subject to entry only under the homstead acts of Congress, in tracts not exceeding 160 acres each. Any of these lands may be obtained by actual settlement upon them. Persons who desire to procure a home upon these lands have to settle upon them and make a small improvement, and reside thereon for five years. After they have done so, government gives them a title at the simple cost of preparing the papers, amounting to not more than ten or fifteen dollars.

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION.

The homestead law of this State is more liberal than that of any State in the Union, the homestead act of Minnesota exempting but eighty acres of land, while in this State, by a wise provision of the constitution, adopted by the Constitutional

Convention, 11th of February, 1868, and subsequently ratified by the people, one hundred and sixty acres of land are exempted from execution. The benefits of this exemption, should the head of the family be removed by death, inure to his widow while she remains unmarried; also, to his children during their minority. The constitution further provides: "The personal property of any resident citizen of this State, to the value of two thousand dollars, to be selected *by such resident*, shall be exempted from sale or execution or other final process of any court, issued for the collection of any debt contracted after the adoption of this constitution.

"Hereafter, the homestead of any resident of this State, who is a married man or head of a family, shall not be encumbered in any manner, while owned by him, except for taxes, laborers' and mechanics' lien, and securities for the purchase money thereof. Every homestead not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres of land, and the dwelling and appurtenances thereon, to be selected by the owner thereof, and not in any town, city or village; or, in lieu thereof, at the option of the owner, any lot in a city, town or village, with the dwelling thereon, owned and occupied by any resident of this State, and not exceeding the value of $5000, shall be exempted from sale or execution, or any other final process of any court." Further, it says: "The homestead of a family, after the death of the owner thereof, shall be exempt from the payment of his debts, in all cases during the minority of his children, and also so long as his widow shall remain unmarried, unless she shall be the owner of a homestead in her own right." It also provides that the property of a female, before marriage, shall be held by her in her own right as long as she shall so elect, to be disposed of by her as she shall deem proper. These just provisions of the constitution, it will be seen, provide against the possibility of any one's being distressed or deprived of a home.

EDUCATION.

The constitution of this State provides "That the General Assembly shall require by law that every child of sufficient mental and physical ability shall attend the public school during the period between the ages of five (5) and eighteen (18) years, for a term equivalent to three years, unless educated by other means." and the Legislature has provided a very efficient school law, now being set in operation, which secures to all the State ample school privileges. The law also provides that the white and colored children shall be educated in separate schools.

Section 3, in the educational clause in the new constitution, says: "The General Assembly shall establish and maintain a State University, with departments for instruction in teaching in agriculture and the natural sciences, as soon as the public school fund will permit."

Section 4 provides for a fund as follows: "The proceeds of all lands that have or hereafter may be granted by the United States to this State, and not otherwise appropriated by the United States or this State; also, all mines, stock-bonds, lands and other property now belonging to any fund for purposes of education; also, the net proceeds of all sales of lands and other property and effects that may accrue to the State by escheat, as from sales of estrays, or unclaimed dividends, as distributive shares of the estates of deceased persons, or from fines penalties or forfeitures; also, any proceeds of the sales of public lands which may have been, or may hereafter be, paid over to this State, (Congress consenting.); also, all the grants, gifts, or devises, that have been, or may hereafter be, made to this State, and not otherwise appropriated by the tenure of the grant, gift, or devise, shall be securely invested and sacredly preserved as a public school fund, which shall be the common property of the State. The annual income of which fund, together with one dollar *per capita*, to be annually assessed on every male inhabitant of the State over the age of twenty-one years, and so much of the ordinary annual revenue of the State as may

be necessary, shall be faithfully appropriated for the establishing and maintaining the free schools and the university in this article provided for and for no other purpose whatever." In addition to this, the 16th section of land in every township is set apart for school purposes, much of which it is thought can be saved to the State. It is, in any event, safe to assert that the educational interests of Arkansas are fully provided for.

MANUFACTURES.

"In 1860, Arkansas had 518 manufacturing establishments, with a capital of $1,316,610. The annual product was $2,880,578; the cost of labor $554,240, and of raw material $1,280,503, leaving a profit of $1,055,835, or 80 per cent. on the capital. Over three-fourths of this production consisted of lumber, flour, meal and leather." Since which time manufactures, especially of lumber have largely increased. From 1850 to 1860 the increase in value of sawed and planed lumber in Arkansas was 1000 per cent.

POPULATION.

In 1850, the population was 209,877; in 1860, 435,450; and is now rapidly increasing by immigration from the older States.

PROFITS ACCRUING FROM LABOR.

Many farmers in this State realized last year a net income from their crops of from $15,000 to $30,000, and, in one case, $45,000, and this not at the expense of the labor—as in many instances heads of families, having aid of the same only in the picking season, realized, besides cost of living, from $900 to $1100.

This State is one-sixth larger than the State of New York. In 1860, the cash value of farms and farming tools was $100,-

000,000. Live stock was valued at $22,000,000. The State produced, as near as can be ascertained, 367,000 bales of cotton, 1,000,000 pounds of tobacco, 500,000 bushels of oats, 18,000,000 bushels of corn, 80,000 bushels of rye, 1,000,000 bushels of wheat, 500,000 bushels of peas and beans, 500,000 bushels of Irish potatoes, 1,500,000 bushels of sweet potatoes, 4,000,000 pounds of butter, and 1,000,000 pounds of honey.

The value of the slaughtered animals in the same year amounted to $4,000,000, showing that of the open land in the State fully one-third has not been in cultivation since the war, and that the demand for labor and capital in Arkansas is not exceeded by any part of the United States.

Among the most thriving cities in the State, are Little Rock, Pine Bluff, Camden, Fort Smith, and Helena, all good business points. There are many other thriving towns, desirable localities for immigrants.

ROUTES OF TRAVEL.

This State is easy of access by boat from any point on the Mississippi river. Immigrants from the North and East, via Memphis, can come from that city to Little Rock by the way of White river to DeVal's Bluff, by the Memphis and Little Rock Railroad, or by boat via the Arkansas river. Immigrants from Germany will find an easy rout to this State by either the Bremen or Hamburg line of steamers to New Orleans; from thence by Mississippi and Arkansas or Ouachita river steamers to any point.

QUIET AND SAFETY.

Since the war, in common with other Southern States, there have been some local disturbances in Arkansas, but under the strong and well-administered State government now in power, all discord has ceased, the evil disposed have either subsided into quiet or left the State, gangs of desperadoes have been

broken up and offenders brought to justice, until life and property are as well protected in Arkansas as in any State in this Union, and the people every where express an earnest desire for immigration.

STATE CREDIT.

Although almost a repudiator for many years, the State government has taken steps to establish her financial reputation. Her debt is funded and provision made for the payment of the interest on the first of January next. She has awarded aid to 850 miles of the railroads in her limits to insure their early completion. These were not party measures. All clases were in favor of a funding bill, and the people of the State, by almost a unanimous vote, pledged her aid to the building of the most important lines of road. Together with this, let it be borne in mind that there are, within the limits of (and bordering on) the State, 3000 miles of navigable streams.

With these great natural resources, and her immense agricultural and mineral wealth, it is confidently expected that but a short time will elapse until Arkansas, rivalling Missouri and Illinois, will stand among the first of the States of the Mississippi valley.

In conclusion, it may be truthfully asserted that any person who can strike a blow, or has a moderate sum to invest, can not do amiss by coming to Arkansas.

All letters addressed to this office seeking information will be promptly answered.

This pamphlet will be sent free to any person on receipt at this office of name and address.

J. M. LEWIS.

Commissioner of Immigration and State Lands.

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